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Covington, S. F., 1819-1889.
Indianapolis, Ind. : diary
of Samuel Fulton Covington,
April 1, to May 15, 1858



Indianapolis - Indiana

DIARY OF

SAMUEL FULTON COVINGTON

April 1, to May 15 1858

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By

John Covington Williams

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April 1, 1858. Morning rainy, and continued until noon, when it cleared off, and was very pleasant.

Received reports from Union City, Danville, and Madison, and answered them all.

Busily engaged in office nearly all day, bringing up the business for the month, and selecting and arranging copy for Advertiser.

Purchased fruit trees, see Journal.

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There is a good deal of feeling in political circles upon the subject of the Bill now before Congress admitting Kansas under the Lecompton Constitution, and upon which it is expected a vote will be taken in the H of R today. If "Lecompton" does pass, it will be the greatest outrage ever perpetuated.

The "Sentinel", J. J. Bingham, editor, favors Lecompton, the "Democrat", Charles Smith, editor, is opposed to it. The "Journal", B. B. Sulgrove, editor is Republican, and of course, opposes.

A great revival is going on all over the country. It is without doubt the greatest revival of the present age. Meetings are held morning and evening in all the churches, and a noon-day Union meeting, called a business men's prayer meeting is held in Wesley Chapel.

Today the workmen began to raise the iron front on Judge Blackford's new building on the South-east corner of Meridian & Washington Streets.

Indianapolis & Cincinnati railroad sent me a pass to-day, for balance of the year.

Yesterday the furniture of our next neighbor west, Mr. I. C. Colton, was sold at auction, he having removed yesterday to New York state.

George recited his German lesson at 5:00 p.m. John has been at school. Hattie has a bad cold, and Mary is real cross, though in good health. She makes them wait on her and carry her about, no matter what else goes undone.

The township election comes off on Monday next, and parties are waxing warm. The Lecompton and anti-Lecompton Democrats will probably unite against the Republicans.

The city elections comes off in May, and preparations are already making for interest. A Mr. Maxwell is already in the field as the Republican candidate for Mayor. N. B. Palmer is spoken of as his competitor. Mr. P. is said to be anti-Lecompton, but he is an old and shrewd politician.

The candidates for county offices are also active, and their names are legion. Theo. P. Hanghey, now Secretary of the Peru railroad is prominent for County Treasurer.

Mr. Wallace, Ben. Harrison, -- Vinton, and J. W. Gorden are spoken of as Republican candidates for the Legislature.

The newspapers (opposition) are filled with ridicule of J. D. Bright's speech upon Lecompton in the U.S.S., some very indiscreet friend or toady of the Senator's, having had it puffed in some Lecompton paper, as the ablest speech on that subject.

Met Frank Emerson yesterday, with whom I served in the Legislature in 1847-48. He is a good Democrat, and anti-Lecompton.

M. S. Robinson, our agent at Anderson, and a promising young lawyer, was in the office today. He is Republican in politics.

Mr. Sheets is spoken of as Republican candidate for Congress in this District. J. S. Harvey is violently opposed to him.

W. H. McDonald started yesterday on a prospecting tour to Tennessee. He is in poor health, and will probably not live long--consumption.

Friday - April 2, 1858.

Last night, just as I was retiring, we heard the report of a cannon, and I at once knew that "Lecompton" had been defeated in the House of Representatives. I learned this morning that one hundred and twenty guns had been fired, which is one gun for every vote in Congress in favor of the Kansas Bill with the Crittenden amendment, and which amendment changes the object of the Bill to the very opposite of that intended by the Administration. 112 votes were cast in opposition to it, which is the entire strength of the Administration party in the House.

This day is the fifteenth Anniversary of our marriage. How rapidly, and I may now say how pleasantly time flies. The incidents of fifteen years ago, are as fresh and vivid in my mind--more so-- than those of one or two years ago.

Many have been the vicissitudes, and many the comforts and pleasures of those fifteen years. As a whole they have been pleasant and agreeable. We have been blessed with a fair share--perhaps above the average of good health; and though in a pecuniary point of view, we have had severe trials, yet we have seen so many around us who have suffered far worse than we, that we have no good cause of complaint. We have never been without the comforts and conveniences usual to our station in life; have been blessed with four good children, all of whom are still spared to us, are comfortable in a happy and pleasant home and in the society of our own family--neither of us caring anything about the frivolities of what is termed fashionable society. We have but few social friends and acquaintances, and do not care to enlarge the circle. We have much -- very much to be thankful for, and we trust that we are not unmindful of our obligations to our Heavenly Father, who has watched over us all our lives, and who has conferred upon us so many blessings during our married life, and through His mercy and bounteous munificence we are this evening permitted to enjoy in each others society--the society of our own family--so many comforts and blessings. If each succeeding anniversary of this day during our natural lives shall bring as many happy and pleasant emotions and as few regrets as this day has done, then shall our lives have passed most agreeably.

The man from whom I engaged trees yesterday, came and set out in the front yard, 1 apple tree, 1 peach tree, 2 dwarf pears, 2 grape vines, and two running roses. The roses are on each side of the portico; the grapes are -- one at S.W. corner of house, the other at the fence directly opposite.

In the rear yard, we had set out 5 apple trees, 3 peach trees, 1 dozen raspberries, 1 dozen gooseberries, and 1 dozen currants. Strawberries were obtained from Mr. Hall, corner N. Y. & West Streets a few days ago and planted.

Our trees were set out on the 15th Anniversary of our wedding day. We cannot repress the thought: will we be here fifteen years hence to enjoy their fruits?

Bought mother a nice shawl as a wedding day present. It is not extraordinarily fine, but well suited to our circumstances and fully up to her wishes.

Have been quite busy to-day, as reports from Agents are coming in for March.

Hattie not fully recovered from her cold, but better. All the rest in good health.

Weather pleasant and mild.

Saturday, April 3, 1858.

Weather continues mild and pleasant for the season. Nothing of special importance transpired to-day. Have been busy in the office to-day, and to-night feel weary.

Little Mary, who grows finely and fat every day, is as cross as ever. She is determined that every person about the house shall give her attention. I bought a cab for her to-day--- cost \$15.00 --- so that she can be hauled around instead of being carried so much. She likes it very much, and will, no doubt, keep some one at the tongue of it during the greater portion of her wakeful hours.

George and John went fishing this forenoon. They went to the Terre Haute railroad bridge over White river, and caught twenty-six little fish. In the afternoon they helped me in the office putting up the Advertiser to sent to Agents.

George is gone this evening to a public installation of the Cadets of Temperance. He has handed in his application for membership, and will probably be initiated next Saturday night.

Coming home this evening, I fell in with J. J. Bingham, editor of the Sentinel, and Dodd, Deputy Auditor and brother of J. W. Dodd, Auditor of State. They are both strong Lecomptonites --wonderfully zealous Democrats--both late converts, and have nothing to recommend them as Democrats but their newborn zeal. Bingham is a very pleasant and well informed gentleman. Dodd is a vain, conceited, insolent--and of course, ignorant brawler. His conversation and manner this evening indicated nothing like good breeding.

A large anti-Lecompton meeting is being held to-night.

Sunday, April 4, 1858.

Mother, George and myself went to Church to-day. John and Hattie remained at home with little Mary.

It was Communion, and about thirty persons were admitted to membership upon examination, and about ten by letter -- some from Methodist churches in the city.

Among those admitted upon examination, were Mr. Perrine, the bookseller; Mr. Hatch, the shingle man (and Church Organist) Byron H. Elliott and wife, formerly of the American Hotel; Mr. Barnard, car builder, and his wife, formerly Miss Farnsworth whom we knew when they lived in Madison, Mr. Patterson, Supt. of Union railroad, and wife; J. W. Gray, shoemaker, formerly of Rising Sun; Mrs. Wout; Mr. Rea, U. S. Commissioner; and many others whom I did not know.

Among those from other Churches were Mr. & Mrs. John D. Morris, from the Methodist Church.

A colored boy about fourteen years old was admitted upon examination, and was baptized and partook of the sacrament with others. Mr. Tindall, the Minister, remarked, upon receiving him into the Church that they hoped to rear him as a Christian, and educate him as a minister, that he might be efficient in preaching the Gospel to his own people.

I could not help thinking to-day of what must be the feelings of Mr. W. S. Commissioner Rea, who in the discharge of his official duties has of late remanded so many colored people back to slavery, when he must know that they have no such opportunities of enjoying the blessings of religion as has this boy who this day made a public profession of religion in company with this same Mr. Rea. Suppose some slave owner were to claim this boy as his property--a thing not at all improbable--and call upon Mr. Rea to sustain his demand, what would he do? Send the boy into slavery? Mr. Rea may now look upon the matter in a different light from what he did formerly, and if he does, I can not see how he can retain his present official position--one, the duties of which may at any moment compel him to remand a brother into slavery.

Mr. Tindall preached an excellent sermon. He is an able man, intellectual, and appears to be deeply interested in his work. As an orator he is far above mediocrity, and if life is spared to him, I predict for him a high position as a minister and pulpit orator.

Weather to-day only tolerably pleasant. The sun has shone highly the greater part of the day, but there has been a chilling wind.

It is nearly 9:00 o'clock, and all about the house, except myself are in bed and most probably asleep. I plan on going to Rising Sun at 7:00 o'clock in the morning to write up the business of the Rising Sun Insurance Company, and so I will go to bed now with a view of rising early in the morning.

Monday, April 5, 1858.

Took the cars on the I & C railroad this morning at 7:00 o'clock, and went to Lawrenceburgh on my way to Rising Sun. At Lawrenceburgh hired horse and buggy of Smith, Livery stable keeper, and went to Rising Sun. Roads very good, excepting that portion between Aurora & Laughery Creek, but it was unpleasant riding on account of the high wind. Had difficulty in getting over Laughery, because the wind blew directly down stream, and so hard that the boat could scarcely be moved.

Arrived at Rising Sun at 3:00 p.m. Stopped at the Foundery and saw John. They are now pushing the Sugar Mills with some vigor, and as though they intended to do something.

Went to the office and packed up such books as I could bring out with me to write up the March business of the Rising Sun Insurance Company.

Bought a bill of dry goods of Mr. Hathaway. A dress for my wife (Besage delanie @ 25¢) some clothing for boys, muslin, etc.

John has painted and whitewashed around our old home, and everything looks neat and nice.

Took tea at Mother's and started back to Laurenceburg a few minutes after 5:00 and arrived about 8:00. Took the cars at 10:30 p.m. and reached home about 5:00 next morning. The weather had gotten colder towards morning and the last part of the ride was quite uncomfortable, because they let the fire go out in the cars.

In the cars going down this morning, were Col. Morris and Mr. Rockwood, who got out at St. Paul to examine the Stone Quarry at Flat Rock, and which has been recently opened to get building stone.

Mr. John Elliott, who formerly lived at Rising Sun, was in the cars going down. He has been living in the northwest part of Minnesota, where he lost his wife, and is now bringing his children -- four or five in a number, to leave with his relatives near Rising Sun. He speaks very favorably of Minnesota, though I should judge from his appearance and that of his family, that he is no better off from having moved West. He says 300 bushels of potatoes, 40 bushels oats, 80 bushels corn, and 30 bushels of wheat are the average yield of an acre of ground in that country. Prices have been even higher there than here, until recently, but the crippling of the lumber interest, upon which everything in that country is dependent, has reduced prices of produce. Money, he says, is very scarce.

During the day and night, I traveled 200 miles, 24 of which was in a buggy, and had some two hours for business at Rising Sun.

Cameron & McNeely issued the first number of their new daily paper "The Citizen" to-day. They are not starting off right. They are endeavoring to carry it on cheap, and have not sufficient force in any department. Mechanically, it does very well. Editorially it is weak. They must materially change the plan of operation, else they will lose money, and will soon discontinue its publication.

Tuesday, April 6, 1858.

As I did not get to bed until 5:00 this morning, I did not get up until after 7:00. I have a good deal of work to do, having the March business of both Companies to write up.

Milly, (the colored girl) who has been living with us some time past, started in the cars of the Central road to-day at 1:30, to her friends in Ohio.

Fernanda, the German girl who lived so long with Mrs. Colton, came to live with us yesterday.

Edward Brownell began this afternoon to help me for a few days in the office.

Have been busily engaged all day, and consequently have had but little time to make any notes of observation.

Judge Blackford's new building is progressing fairly, and already gives some indication of what it is to do. It now promises to be an ornament to the city.

Wednesday, April 7, 1858.

Have been quite busy in the office to-day, with E. Brownell helping me. I find that my duties properly attended to, require my whole time and attention. I rarely go in any other part of the city, than the direct line from the house to the office, and so I see but little and hear but little of anything else than my own immediate business.

W. W. French was in the office to-day and had a private conference with Mr. Delpeer. French is one of the great men of the State, which demonstrates that brass is better than brains to secure political prominence.

Coming home this evening, I was intercepted by Mrs. Haire, who is soliciting subscriptions to do the family of a Rev. Mr. Brounlee, who is going out as a missionary to Kansas. I have very unfavorable recollections of a Rev. Mr. Brounlee who once preached at Rising Sun. He is not very industrious and would much prefer that some sister who had not much to do would go around and "solicit", --it ain't polite to say "beg"--money to buy clothing for his family, than to work for it himself. He will, most probably, be a regular "shrieker" in Kansas. I did not feel much inclined to contribute, but gave a dollar, rather than argue the case as I would have been compelled to do.

I have no doubt of the excellence of charity nor of its obligations upon society. It is not only a privilege for those who are able to assist the needy, but it is a duty they owe to themselves, to society, and above all to a merciful and kind Providence who has put it within their power to assist their fellowman. But this giving

that encourages idleness and supports indolence is not charity. Instead of producing good it promotes evil, and encourages idleness. Under the garb of religion, many a lazy scamp keeps well fed and clothed at the expense of the laborious, whose circumstances do not permit them to think even of living in half such style as the very objects or subjects of their gratuity.

Ministers who discharge their duty properly and who are fitted to do so have a right to claim a support and more from their parishiners, but these idle and lazy fellows who are not fit for the pulpit, but who assume its duties because they are too lazy to do anything else, and can thereby best conceal their idleness-- deserve nothing. And if some of the busy sisters would make themselves less officious and solicitous for the support of idle and lazy preachers; society and morals would be none the worse off by losing the result of their labors.

The men who have been putting up our lattice work finished it today, and Mr. Helmig brought down George's desk which he designs using in the depot to sell life policies.

The Democrats of this Ward (the 4th) hold a meeting to-night to nominate councilmen, and to appoint delegates to a leity convention to nominate a candidate for Mayor and other officers for the city at large. At first I thought I would attend, but upon reflection, concluded to stay at home. If I attend, I am, in good faith, bound to support the ticket that may be nominated. If I stay away, no such obligation, express or implied, rests upon me.

I am fully determined to oppose so far as I can, every candidate for an office, who favor the Lecompton fraud. I shall dislike to vote for Republicans, for they are not a safe party, but shall do it to correct Democrats who have gone into this Lecompton project. There is but little in the Republican party to admire, and much to detest. It is now almost wholly governed by the German Turner; an infidel association, and one that is dangerous to the welfare of this country--and especially to the morals of our people. I shall always try to vote against their association. All true Americans may soon be compelled to do so, and much as I dislike an organization such as was the "Know Nothing" association, something of that kind, in milder form, may ere long be indispensable, and I think would be highly beneficial at this very time.

Thursday, April 8, 1858.

Was very busy up to 12:00 o'clock at noon getting ready to go to Rising Sun. The morning was very boisterous--the wind blowing almost a gale.

At 12:00 I took the cars on the Madison road for Madison. Dinner at Franklin. It began to rain soon after leaving Franklin, and continued to rain throughout the afternoon. Whilst we were between Vernon and Madison the rain poured down in torrents.

After arriving at Madison, went up to Whartin's office, and there met the senior, two junior Whartin's, and Mr. Whitney. Nothing else of importance.

Went into Madison Ins. Co.'s office, and paid my note due that Company for \$1200, and arrears of interest \$7.30. This is the last payment on a debt originally \$1,600, contracted in 1853, and lost in flatboating. For nearly five years I have been struggling to get rid of this and other debts contracted at the same time and for the same purpose. For that length of time I have paid on the above debt, interest at the rate of one percent a month, and have also paid the same rate on other debts in considerable amount. I do not care now to calculate how much interest I have paid. I know that it has been burdensome, and that sometimes I have almost despaired of ever being free from debt. But I have striven to get from under the load which for five years has borne me to the very earth, and which, sometimes, has almost crushed out all hope. But by degrees I have been enabled to throw off the load, and now that another great weight has this day been removed, I feel freer and easier, and I look forward to the day which I hope is not far distant, when I can obey the Apostolic injunction: "Owe no man anything."

I hope the trouble which I have suffered by reason of being in debt may always remain in my memory, and warn me in future. There is no depicting the trouble of being unable to pay and yet wanting to pay. One feels that every creditor regards him as dishonest. Thus, a man's energy is crippled and he is unable to do as well as he otherwise would.

While recording these feelings, I would do injustice to my wife, did I not here acknowledge her invaluable assistance by counsel, by economy, and by words of encouragement even in the darkest days of my trial. I feel that but for her assistance and encouragement, I should have despaired and sunk beneath the load. My creditors may thank her in no small measure for the liquidation--slow as it was--of their claims; and I know that I have been maintained in my manhood and integrity by the wisdom of her counsels, and the excellency of her conduct throughout all these trials.

Stopped at Madison Hotel--nobody in the office, but found the proprietor--C. Woodburn, playing billiards in the room beneath. This hotel is "living at a poor dying rate", and no wonder. Such management would ruin the best business in the country.

During the evening, met Mr. Garber, editor of the Courier, a curious genius, and somewhat versatile in politics. Mr. Polley's, Sec'y of the Madison Insurance Co. and several other Madison friends and acquaintances. Capt. Powell is absent at Cincinnati, to sell hog product, of which he has a large amount on hand, and on which he will make a great deal of money, notwithstanding the predictions otherwise early in the season.

Friday, April 9, 1858.

Called at Mr. Sharr's this morning, but none of the family were at home. Mrs. S. and Nora had gone to Church (9:00 o'clock a.m.) as the revival meetings are kept up here with much interest. Mr. S. was out of the city, I presume, but I did not see him.

At a little after 10:00 o'clock, took passage on the steamboat "Kentucky" -- Cin. & Madison packet -- Capt. C. David, and clerk B. B. Tayler, for Rising Sun. The "Champion" an opposition boat, started nearly an hour ahead of us, but we passed and left her at Florence. The wind was very high all day, and the river very rough, yet as we went with the wind and had a pleasant sun overhead, our trip was a very pleasant one.

The foliage upon the Kentucky shore begins to come out, and the green buds upon the trees, and the grass, give an air of freshness and beauty to that side of the river which is really pleasant. The Indiana side shows no such signs of the approach of Spring. As the shores appear to-day, the season upon the Kentucky side is a full week earlier than upon the Indiana side. The contrast is so great as to occasion many remarks upon the subject among the passengers, and one of the number, the Rev. Mr. Lynch, Presiding Elder of the Madison Circuit, is asking of many the reason why it is so, as though any way farer could explain such a mystery of nature. I have oftentimes before observed the same fact, that vegetation put forth much earlier upon the Kentucky than upon the Indiana side of the Ohio river.

I do not often note what is set upon a public table, unless it be an extreme--either very good or very bad. But the dinner on the "Kentucky" deserves mention, and I set it down as the best one to which I have sat down upon a steamboat between Cincinnati and Louisville in many years. In addition to excellent soup, nice boiled fresh salmon, the usual course of meats, vegetables, chicken pie, etc., they had in most superb order, the good old fashioned dish of "jole and greens", of which I partook heartily. The "Kentucky" is a very fine boat in every particular, and her table fully corresponds.

During the trip, I was much interested in watching the shores with which I was quite familiar. The several places seemed like old acquaintances.

As we passed Patriot, I could not help looking at the old "Roger's Corner", where I made my "first appearance" in selling dry goods, twenty-six years ago last February. I went into that store, as principal clerk, though a boy of twelve years of age, in February, about the 18th, 1832. More than twenty-six years ago! Think of it! Twenty-six years--a period of time, which to me (as it seems but a short time since) looked like an age. And now I remember many of the incidents of that time--and more of them--more vividly, than I do the occurrences of but a year or two ago.

I had thought I would merely mention Patriot, but I must indulge in some reminiscences, as that is the place at which I first started out in the world.

I went there to attend in the Dry Goods store of Rogers & Boyle, who had bought out the stock of Moore & Pepper in Rising Sun, and removed it to Patriot. At this trade, Moore & Pepper dissolved partnership, Mr. Moore retiring to his farm about four miles above Rising Sun. Col. Pepper continued in the business, purchasing an entire new stock. P. A. Athearn took charge of the business, as Col. Pepper was Indian Agent, and spent much of his time from home.

Rogers had long been a flatboatman and had made some money. But he knew nothing about dry goods, though capable of making himself a very fair merchant. Boyle was a brother-in-law of Rogers--had been raised on a farm near Rising Sun, and was an awkward and uncouth clodhopper as you could select out of a hundred. He was a beautiful specimen of humanity to handle silks and satins, or lawns and laces. Yet he undertook it, though possessing not a single qualification for the business.

We started from Rising Sun in a flatboat, with the goods on board in boxes, after an early dinner on the 18th (I think) of July 1832, and landed at Patriot before dark the same evening. It was a few days after the highest of the flood of 1832, and the river had fallen but a few feet, was just a foot or two below the edge of the bank opposite where the distillery in Rising Sun now stands on the lower side of Second Street. When we landed at Patriot, the top of the boat was nearly even with the top of the bank directly opposite the store we were to occupy, which was the frame building cornering on First street and the street next below the present steamboat landing. We rolled the goods into the store that night, and took the household into the part of the same building which was to be occupied by Rogers' family. Boyle was unmarried.

Rogers had engaged Bela Herrick to assist him upon his arrival, and I remember that he was in readiness to comply with his engagement, though it was with difficulty he could do so, and for this reason. John Sheets was there upon our landing, and quite drunk, and importuning Herrick, who was then a constable to go with him to Donahues' Deadning (?), some five miles above, and arrest some fellow who had given Sheets a thrashing in a drunken quarrel. The people who lived in and about the "Deadning" at that time, were more like savages than civilized people. Drunken carousals and fighting appeared to be their principal occupation, and they were never so happy as when in one or both of these conditions.

There was but one brick house in Patriot at that time, which belonged to Joshua Hicks, and was situated at the lower part of the village. And there were but few frame houses. Al. Moore, since moved to Illinois, kept a little grocery--in-

cluding a few dry goods. The whole value of his stock could not have exceed \$100 -- the principal article being a barrel of whiskey, and for which there was more demand than for anything else.

But, my present object is not to write reminiscences, and so I will close this part, hoping that opportunity may be afforded me at some future time to write out my recollections in a regular and connected chain.

Arrived at Mother's and found all well. Mother's supper was over, but she soon got me some.

Mrs. Banks came in during the evening and stayed all night. She is to start in Monday next for California, in company with Mr. Percival, her son-in-law, and Charley Tudsbury, her grandson, who have lately come from California. Mrs. B. and mother are among the oldest, if not the two very oldest inhabitants of Rising Sun -- Mother having come there in 1800, and Mrs. Banks being born the same year. Of course, they had much to talk about, as they never expect to meet again after Mrs. B. Starts on her journey.

Saturday, April 10, 1858

Soon as I got breakfast, went to the office to write up the March business of the Rising Sun Insurance Company. Was kept busy all day, and did not go out into town. Jno. Grace and Mr. T. Pate both called in, and Pate went with me to Mother's to dinner.

Mr. Hathaway is receiving his spring goods, and all in the store were busily occupied.

Mr. J. C. Wells has not yet returned from the East, where he has gone to buy goods.

W. P. White has sold out his stock to Jno. B. Craft, who is going to take it to Matton, Illinois. Heard it surmised that Mr. White sold, because he had indorsed for W. P. James to amount of \$4,000, which he would most probably be made liable for.

J. W. Hayden looks as though he were in bad health-- is very hoarse, as he says from coughing. He does not appear to have any regular business.

Rising Sun has a dull appearance, but the day is dark and rainy, which may account for it.

Sunday, April 11, 1858.

This day was very rainy and unpleasant, and about 10:00 o'clock there was a heavy storm of thunder, lightning and rain.

I wrote in the office the greater part of the day, as I would be unable to get the books written up by 3:00 o'clock to-morrow, at which hour the Board of Directors meet.

Monday, April 12, 1858.

Went to the office early, and wrote until I got the March business written up, then went to the Foundry to see about the sugar mills they are making. Found them getting along pretty well, with three sizes. They think that they will have to make a fourth, so as to afford an article at \$30. The sizes now furnished will have to be put at \$40, \$50, and \$60 to pay.

Board met in the afternoon. Reported particulars of the loss at Wabash. Awards were made as follows: To Mr. Steele, Jr., for loss of brick building burned March 20, \$1,200. To H. Caldwell, for loss of brick building burned at same time for \$1150. To Odd Fellows, for loss on furniture of Lodge Room, \$75. The usual business was transacted.

Bought of B. J. Hathaway, a pair of shoes for my wife, and two pocket handkerchiefs for myself, and when I got home, found the package contained, in addition, a nice worked collar, worth \$2.50, which we suppose was intended as a present to Mrs. Covington.

Got on board the Kentucky at 8:00 o'clock, and after a pleasant trip of two hours and a half, reached Lawrenceburgh just in time to take the right train home, which I did, and arrived at home at 5:00 a.m. Mrs. Banks was on the boat, and notwithstanding she has lived on the banks of the Ohio river for 58 years, it was her first trip on a steamboat.

Tuesday, April 13, 1858.

Went to the office about 8:00 o'clock. Found several letters awaiting answers. Was kept very busy all day. Col. Morris did not come in.

Dr. Ellis was in several times during the day. Mr. Harper, the Republican candidate for Treasurer of State also called. He does not feel very much flattered at his prospects, I should judge. The Dutch, up north, have endorsed him, and made an appeal to the Germans throughout the State to support

him. The "Know Nothings" down south will repudiate him, and as they are about 25,000 strong in the State, they can beat him if they wish.

Wednesday, April 14, 1858.

Have been very busy all day writing up the March business of the Indianapolis Insurance Company, as the Board of Directors meet to-morrow morning at 9:00 o'clock.

The city election is creating some excitement. As I went from dinner today, Judge Perkins urged me to try and be at home at the time of the election, so that I could vote the Democratic ticket, and as I came home this evening, Major Dunn also stopped me to tell me that the Democrats had a good ticket, and he wanted me to vote for it.

Col. Morris called in this afternoon, and looked over the papers and business transacted during his absence.

Mr. Hill, at Madison, who pretends to have a claim against the Company, has given us notice of his intention to take depositions in Madison on the 19th and at St. Louis on the 23rd. I expect to have to attend at both places, so that my time for several days to come will be pretty fully occupied. My plan before this notice was served, was to go to Wabash to-morrow night, and pay Mr. Caldwell \$500 which the Rising Sun Ins. Co., sent me, and return on Saturday. Then on Monday go to New Albany, thence to Cannelton, thence to Rockport, thence to Mt. Vernon, Evansville, and home. Now I must go to Madison on Saturday, so as to be there on Monday, the 19th, and then must be in St. Louis on Friday the 23rd. I find that I can make no appointments ahead with any certainty of fulfilling them, unless the business is of the most urgent necessity.

The trees are beginning to bud out, though the weather to-day is quite cool. I think the trees we set out last week will grow finely.

The Directors of the Peru railway company to-day contracted with Mr. James Walker an arrangement by which he will build a continuation of the Peru road to Plymouth--and which will make the route by Peru the shortest between this city and Chicago. This will advance the Stock of the Peru company, which is now at a very low figure.

Thursday, April 15, 1858.

The first part of the day was busily employed in getting ready for the Board meeting, and then there was no session. Dr. Nofsinger came and went away. Mr. Hasselman came and waited until the Dr. returned, but Col. Morris did not come until both had left. So we had no quorum and no meeting.

Mr. Graves of Cincinnati, who wants an agency of the Company came in to-day. Suggested to him that he should take the counties of Union, Fayette, Wayne, and Hancock. He wants Allen and the adjoining counties, but will decide in a week or so whether or not he will take the district offered to him.

Mr. Hill, of Madison, called to see if we could not agree upon the facts in his case without going to the trouble of taking depositions at Madison and Saint Louis. He wanted us to agree to enough to enable him to make out his case. Kind, considerate Mr. Hill. Mr. Hill needs pretty close watching, and I intend to do my best at keeping an eye on him and his movements.

The negro preacher called soliciting donations to help pay out the debt of the negro church recently fitted up in the South-western part of the city, and I had to invest one dollar.

Mr. Wilson, our Fort Wayne Agent came down to-day. He has huge expectations of business, but does not accomplish anything, nor do I believe that he ever will do anything. He wants us to give him money to defray his expenses, but I guess he won't get it from us.

Had not time to go to dinner to-day, so George brought my dinner up for me, which was very good, and answered every purpose.

Started at half past three on the Peru road for Wabash to pay Mr. Caldwell Five-hundred dollars on account of his loss March 20, last, in Rising Sun Company.

Mr. Dart of Peru, and Mr. Holman, of Noblesville also went up on the cars. Mr. Haughey went up to Peru. Also Giles Smith, who is now stationed at Peru in the service of the rail road.

Mr. Dart electioneered me to make a donation in aid of purchasing a fire engine at Peru. Am not favorably inclined even to the purchase of an engine, or its use in such small towns, and certainly not to donating.

On the way decided not to go to Wabash but to telegraph Mr. Caldwell to meet me at Peru. Did so, and he came down. I paid him Five hundred dollars, as per agreement. He did not get down until after 10 o'clock, and I did not get to bed until midnight. Stopped at the Robinson House. Mr. Haughey and I occupied Room #23.

Met Mr. Van Vliet, formerly clerk at the Bates House, at the "Robinson". He is out peddling Oliver H. Smith's book. Says he sold 17 copies the day before yesterday at Kokomo, but has had poor success at Peru. I suggested to him to take our

Agency, and solicit insurances. He is inclined to do so, but wants Wayne, Fayette, and Union counties. When he returns next week, he will call and see us, and perhaps we can transfer Graves to the Fort Wayne region, and give Van Vliet the Richmond section. Van went on to Huntington by the night train, and Mr. Caldwell returned home.

Friday, April 16, 1858.

Did not get up very early--went to bed too late. Was awakened by Mr. Haughey unlocking the door to get out. The sun was up, and shining highly into our room.

After breakfast went out to find Mr. Beal our Agent. Spent some time, passing backward and forward between his office and shoe store, but he had not come down. Finally, went to the cars, stopping by his house on my way. Found him, and he went over to the depot with me. Talked about the fire engine, and agreed that before making any public say either way about it, that we would see what others would do.

Was introduced to Judge Biddle, now a candidate for the Supreme Bench, by Mr. Beal. Had seen the Judge at the Hotel this morning. He appears to be a very clever gentleman, and I believe that it is universally conceded that he is an able lawyer and would make a good judge.

Cars started down at 10 o'clock. Mr. Holman came down to Indianapolis. Mr. Haughey did not get through his business, and remained. Mr. Stretch, our agent at Marion, also came down, having in charge an insane man whom he was bringing to the asylum.

On the way down Mr. Holman communicated to me a scheme of his to try and get Congress to donate to the stockholders of the Peru and Indianapolis railroad, an amount of land equivalent to each alternate section of the Miami Reservation through which the road was made, while it was a wilderness. As the reservation was thirty miles square--or 900 square miles--the amount sought is 450 square miles. As the General Government has been very liberal to other lines, since the building of the Peru road, and in view of its having been built through a wilderness -- for thirty miles -- of government lands, it would seem but fair and proper that the grant should be made.

Mr. Holman wants to be the Republican candidate for Congress in his district, as he says, for the express purpose of getting the grant made. His district is now represented by Jno. W. Pettit, but he will not again be a candidate. The candidates for the Republican nomination, so far as I have heard, are C. D. Murray of Kokomo, Conner of Noblesville, and Holman,

Col. Jno. Spence, of Fort Wayne, was in the cars to-day. He got out at Kokomo, and was going to Winchester. He told me that he came to Dearborn county in 1797, about the time my mother came there, so they have known each other for about sixty years. He made many inquiries about the old citizens of Rising Sun.

Got home at 1:30 p.m. Went home to dinner and returned to the office, where Wilson was waiting for me. Suppose he thinks he will get some money, but if he is relying upon that he will be disappointed. He did not return to Ft. Wayne to-day, as he said he would, but is waiting until to-morrow.

Howard Coe of Bloomington, our Agent, called to-day. He has sold out his newspaper, but won't make much of an Agent. He says Dr. Dailey did get caned, sure enough.

Heard to-day of the death of Mr. Lackey, our Agent at Jeffersonville. Heard a day or two ago of his illness. He was Mayor of that City, and I think a very worthy man.

Saturday, April 17, 1858.

Must go to Madison to-day, so as to be there on Monday to attend to taking depositions on Monday in the case of Logan & Hill, against the Indianapolis Ins. Co.

Before going made out Policies to A. Depeer on his cooper shop and stock at Terre Haute in both Rising Sun and Indianapolis Companies. Took up my note of \$100 due to him March 1, 1857 --the premium on the policies was \$126. He owed me \$20 on account of 1 months rents to Judge Perkins, and I gave check on Fletcher's for \$54, which made the \$100. Mr. E. McNeely attended to the business for Depeer.

Other duties in the office kept me very busy until 12 o'clock, when I took the cars on the Madison road for Madison. Ate dinner at Franklin, and arrived at Madison on time, between 4:00 and 5:00 p.m. and stopped at Madison Hotel. Nothing of interest transpired during the evening.

Sunday, April 18, 1858.

Went to 2nd Pres. Church, and heard Mr. Atterbury preach a miserably poor sermon in a very poor manner. Was quite unwell in church, from indigestion, and so continued all day. In the evening went to a homoeopathist physician, and got some medicine, which did a little, but not very material good. The Jacob Strader made the trip from Cincinnati to Louisville to-day in seven and a quarter hours. The river is in a good state. Rev. Mr. Treat, Secy. of Am. Board For Missions preached or lectured in Second Church this evening, but I did not go to hear him.

Monday, April 19, 1858.

This is the day for taking depositions. The place appointed was Mayor's office, but changed by consent of parties to John H. Tayler's office, and were taken before John H. Taylor. A Mr. Thom appeared for Logan & Hill, and I procured the services of A. W. Hendricks, as Atty. for the Company. Spent the whole day -- up to 7 o'clock p. m. but did not get through.

Tuesday, April 20, 1858.

Resumed the taking of depositions this morning, and finished just before noon.

After dinner spent some time in office of Madison Ins. Co., at Wharten's office, Garber's office, and called on Mrs. Shaw & Nora. They were house cleaning, and are putting down new carpets, and bringing gas into their house. Mr. Shaw was at home, and told me a long story about his having his watch and about \$100 money stolen from him, while he was on board the Steamboat "Telegraph 3", a few nights previously, on his way to Cincinnati. His son Charles had made him a present of a pocket book, containing a sum of money, and his son George had presented him a gold watch which about made good his loss.

Mr. J. D. Depeer came down this afternoon on the cars, and he and I occupied the same room at the Hotel. He is going up part way in the morning, and then to Salem.

Hotel bill for the time I have been here \$5.00 -- nearly four days.

Wednesday, April 21, 1858.

Returned home from Madison by the morning train, arriving at 11 a. m. Have to write up the business in the office so as to start at 11:20 tonight, to attend to taking depositions in same case at Saint Louis on the 23rd. Was very busy all afternoon.

George has his stand in the Depot for selling Life Policies, but has met with poor success.

Took the cars at 11:20 p. m. on the Terre Haute road for St. Louis. They were crowded almost to suffocation with emigrants from York State and Down East on their way to Kansas, and a lot of Irishmen and women, with their bundles, bound I don't know where. Had to sit bolt up right, and of course, without sleep until we reached Terre Haute, which was after 3 o'clock in the morning.

At Terre Haute took the cars on the T. H. & Alton road, where we had more, and I managed to get a place where I could sleep.

Thursday, April 22, 1858.

Did not wake up until after we had passed Matton. Got an abominably poor breakfast at Shelbyville, where they seemed to think that the bountiful supply of hoops indulged in by the girls who waited upon the table would make amends for the scantiness and poor quality of the provisions upon the table. They were not scanty in charges though, for they charged 50 cents for the poor breakfast. After breakfast, got another good nap in the cars, which made some amends for last night.

Arrived at East St. Louis at 2:17 p.m. The day had been very pleasant until about noon, when a cold wind came down from the northwest and made it very unpleasant. The wind was blowing almost a hurricane as we crossed the river. Reached Barnum's Hotel at 3:00 p.m., and immediately went to Mr. Chase's office.

At about 5 to 6 o'clock p.m., and alarm of fire was sounded, occasioned by the hull (burning) of the steamboat "Ocean Spray", floating down past the city. The "Ocean Spray", for Peoria, and the "Hannibal City", for Keokuk, had started out at 4 o'clock on a race. When 4 or 5 miles above the city, the "Hannibal City", was gaining on the "Ocean Spray", when the mate of the latter boat took a barrel of turpentine, which was on freight, and scattered some of it on the boat, and dipped wood in the balance to aid in making steam. By some means it took fire, and the boat was enveloped in flames in two minutes. The boat reached the shore at a point where the steamboat "Keokuk" was lying, setting fire to her and consuming her. About 20 lives were lost. The burning hull of the "Ocean Spray" was landed on Bloody Island, opposite St. Louis, where it sank. About 10:00 p.m. the burning hull of the Keokuk broke loose from its moorings and floated down against the "Star of the West", a Missouri river boat, setting fire to her and consuming her. It was a terrible affair.

I went to Rogers & Spaldings circus at Woods Theatre in the evening. The performances were very good.

The wheat crop along the line of the road from T. Haute to St. Louis looks exceedingly fine and promises well.

Friday, April 23, 1858.

Entire day spent in taking depositions at the office of J. K. Knight, No. 2, Post Office building. Knight was Hill's attorney, and I procured the services of Mr. Knsey who charged me \$20, and whose services were not worth 20 cents.

Saturday, April 24, 1858.

Started for home at 9 o'clock a.m. As I was crossing the river, I counted 96 steamboats at the wharf. I do not believe

there was business for ten of them, for I never before saw St. Louis so dull. Saw the hull of the "Ocean Spray". Sad sight, and sorrowful associations. Hotel bill \$4.50. \$2.50 for a day!

Arrived at home at 1:55 a.m. Sunday morning. Between Terre Haute and Indianapolis, as we came over, there was a considerable fall of snow. Chilling sensation! Snow on the 24th of April. Fare to St. Louis \$8.25. Same back again.

Sunday, April 25, 1858

At about 5:00 this morning, was awakened by a knocking at the door. It proved to be Brother John, who has not been here before, since the last State Fair.

Loss of sleep, and weariness of travel has made me about half sick, so that I have spent most of the day in the house.

Heard to-day of a loss of \$1,800 for Rising Sun Company at New Albany.

Also, got a letter from Uncle & Aunt Gaskill saying they would visit us in June next.

Monday, April 26, 1858.

Weather to-day has been cold and unpleasant, and to-night promises to be quite cold. I am afraid that the fruit will be killed.

Have been quite busy in the office, as usual to-day, as I must go away to New Albany in the morning.

Mr. Hill, who makes a claim against the Company for damage on lumber insured, came here to-day from St. Louis. He wants to change the trial from here to Madison, but I do not think he will be accommodated.

John has been here all day, but has spent but very little of his time in the office. He has been at the house most of the time.

Mr. Depeer and I went out to Col. Morris' this evening, and found the Colonel superintending his men in digging out stumps in the field back of his house.

Paid Mr. Bronson five dollars for John's tuition for the ensuing quarter, and ordered a load of coal from Smith & Stevenson's yard.

The cold weather of the past few days appears to have given people indigestion. Many are complaining of it. It is attended with dizziness and is really unpleasant -- a sort of delirious sensation.

Nearly all of our family -- including Ferdinanda -- have been thus afflicted. We are trying to remedy it, by eating light food, and especially at supper. To-night we had mush and milk for supper, and its more frequent use would doubtless be beneficial.

George still visits the depot regularly in hopes of finding customers for Life Policies, but has poor success.

Mr. Reinmann, who taught George - German, gave me a letter to-day soliciting a renewal of George's lessons. Shall decline to send George again, as Mr. R. is very unpleasant -- indeed he is a bore.

Tuesday, April 27, 1858.

Took the cars on the Jeffersonville road to go to New Albany to adjust a loss for the Rising Sun Co., under a Policy to Mr. G. C. Carvill.

In the cars, met Dr. Hay of Charlestown who was assistant clerk of the House in 1847 when I was Representative from Ohio and Switzerland counties. Had some pleasant chat with him about old times.

Arrived at Jeffersonville, and went to see Mr. J. S. Harvey, whom I found at work fitting up his furniture in his house, he having recently moved to this place.

Went over to Louisville, got dinner at the Galt House, went down to New Albany in company with Mr. Ferry. Called to see Mr. Carvil, he was not in (at Culbertson's), went over to the ruins to look into it, found that the damage was more than our Policy. Went to Ferry's office to try and adjust a claim against Rising Sun Co. held by a Spaniard named Ingargolia, on account of loss in potatoes by some stern wheel steamboat last Fall.

Late in the evening returned to Louisville, got supper at the Galt House, and wrote a few paragraphs for the Madison Courier. About 9:00 Mr. Alexander, the lumber dealer came in, the very man I wanted to see. He says it was Calbertson, lumber dealer in Corrington, who made offer to Hill for sunk lumber, and not Robinson of Louisville, as I had heard, and who I intended to try and find to-morrow.

Went to bed at 10:00, well tired out.

Wednesday, April 28, 1858.

Got up and ate breakfast at six. Mr. Harvey was to meet me this morning to go and see Robinson, the lumber man, which is now unnecessary. He didn't come. Wrote a note and left for him, and started to New Albany. Saw Carvill, got his bill of particulars of damage, saw Ingargolia and adjusted his loss.

Found I would not have time to go through Louisville and reach the 11 o'clock train for home, at Jeffersonville. Got a horse and buggy. Ferry drove me up. Saw Harvey, and got him to take agency of Rising Sun and Indianapolis Companies, and took the cars for home.

Found Frank Emerson in the cars. He is as strong anti-Lecompton as ever. At Columbus took in Aquilla Jones and C. S. Stevenson. Arrived at depot at 4:45.

Thursday, April 29, 1858.

Busy all day writing up business in office. Nothing new transpiring.

Friday, April 30, 1858.

Busy in regular routine of office. Began to-day to prepare a Brief in the case of Hill & Logan against Ind. Insurance Company, and put every leisure moment upon it.

Saturday, May 1, 1858.

Entire day busily occupied with work in office, and on my Brief. No time to write up Journal, even if I had anything to write.

Sunday, May 2, 1858.

Spent almost the entire day upon my Brief. Did not go to Church. Rather a bad record, but the best plan is to tell the truth.

Monday, May 3, 1858.

Busy in office. Obtained a few minutes leisure to read some authorities in reference to the points in controversy in the Hill & Logan case. Ferdinanda went away to-day and Anna came.

Tuesday, May 4, 1858.

Busy as usual. Raining nearly all day. City election to-day. Took no interest in it. Voted the straight out Democratic ticket. Entire Republican ticket elected by about 300 majority.

Wednesday, May 5, 1858.

Occupied busily in the office. A woman was killed in the Marion depot to-day. Cars of Bellefontaine train backed over her. See the newspapers. Big Republican jolification to-night -- guns firing, bon fires, etc.

Thursday, May 6, 1858.

Nothing of importance occurred during the forenoon, except preparing to go to Rising Sun. Took the 1:30 p. m. train and went to Cincinnati. Got Cincinnati papers before leaving the depot, and was a good deal amused in reading in the Gazette, a letter from Gen'l. Foley, the intelligent member of Congress from the 4th District in this State.

Foley is an illiterate jackass, and a disgrace to the district. I am guilty of having been mainly instrumental in procuring his nomination, and assisted in his election. I have sincerely repented it. He is ignorant, and his dodge on the Kansas question shows him to be unreliable. It is a burning shame that such men are so often put in high places.

At Greensborough, Mr. Thompson and Dr. Vanhorn got in the cars. Jno. B. Hall got on board at Lawrenceborough.

Stopped at W. S. Hotel, and in the evening Hall and myself went to the National Theatre, to see the performances of the remnant of the late Ravel troupe.

Friday, April 7.

Soon as I got breakfast, started over to Covington to see a Mr. Culbertson, a lumber dealer who had proposed to buy Hill's lumber sunk near Louisville. Went by Tait & Son's, on Walnut Street, and Capt. Tait went over with me. Saw Mr. Culbertson, but don't think his testimony will aid us any. He has forgotten what price he offered for the lumber.

Capt. T. showed me a lot fronting the Ohio, just below Licking, which he thought of buying and occupying as a residence. It is a beautiful location, and very desirable. The price is \$100 per front foot -- 40 feet -- with a tolerably fair frame dwelling upon it.

Took the mailboat, Telegraph No. 3, at 12:00 noon for Rising Sun. John B. Hall also went down to Rising Sun.

Arrived between 2 & 3, and after going to see Mother, immediately went to work in the office to get books ready for next Monday's Board meeting.

Saturday, May 8.

Busy in the office all day. Saw but few persons, as I had no leisure.

Sunday, May 9, 1858.

Weather delightful, and I enjoyed it. Mr. Bonham preached his farewell sermon, but I did not go to hear him. He leaves the church, on account of difference of opinion as to infant baptism. I. H. Pepper got off the Memphis at about 5:00 p. m.

Monday, May 10, 1858.

First half of the day busily occupied in writing up the Books of the Company. Board met in the afternoon, and ordered payment of \$1,800 loss to Mr. Carvel of New Albany, and Hathaway, Sec'y, gave me check on Springer & Whiteman for \$1,380, and on Jones, Brothers & Co., for \$400 to pay the same.

Rain set in heavy about middle of afternoon. Boat "Kentucky" came up about 8:00. Got on board, as did also Capt. Tait, who had come down from Cincinnati on Saturday. Gave the Capt. the \$400 check to collect and remit money to me by express at Indianapolis. Judge O. P. Morton also got on board with Miss Miller, daughter of C. Miller. They took a grand parade or promenade up and down the cabin. They are relatives, but still the thing did not look just as well as it might have done, were it otherwise.

Rain poured down in torrents, and the night very dark. Frank Robinson, the Pilot, said it was all he could do to see to navigate.

Mrs. & Jacob Piatt, Sam Seward, Att'y Thompson, and other Rising Sun folks were passengers.

Reached Lawrenceburgh at 10:30 and got a good clean bed -- for a wonder -- at Bolander's.

Tuesday, May 11.

Took the cars at 7:20 for Indianapolis. The heavy rain of last night has swollen Tanner's Creek to a terrible height. Felt uneasy about the railroad bridges, and so did the officer of the road, as they examined the bridges before crossing. Found a land slide near Guilford, where about 20 cart loads of earth had fallen upon the track, which detained us a little while until it was removed.

Dan. Mop and Jno. S. Robinson were in the cars. The Commercial of this morning says that Robinson is crazy. A hoax gotten up by political opponents to annoy him. Bemisdaffer and Cobb got in at Greensburg. Had some fun with all these men laughing at Foley's letter. Robinson says the letter was written to Bob McCleary at Brookville. The Indianapolis Sentinel has been silly enough to assert that the letter was a forgery.

Reached Indianapolis within 5 minutes of regular time, notwithstanding the difficulties as to bridges, slides, etc.

Found family all well, and somewhat disappointed that Grandmother had not come out with me.

Went to office in afternoon, and was busily employed the balance of the day in writing up the Books for Board meeting on Thursday. Rain, Rain, Rain.

Wednesday, May 12, 1858.

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Upon opening the Sentinel this morning, the first thing that attracted my attention was an account, by telegraph, of the terrible railroad accident which occurred yesterday morning at 6:00 o'clock on the New York Central near Utica. Mr. Archibald Moore, of Rising Sun, is in the list of killed. I saw him on Saturday last at Rising Sun in good health and spirits. He left there on Sunday night on a visit to his friends in Boston and that portion of Massachusetts. Mr. M. is an old resident of Rising Sun, having come there as early as 1816. He was between 72 and 73 years of age, but active for a man of his years. It is terrible to think of such sudden death, and under such circumstances.

The usual labors of the office have occupied the day, and I have been kept so busily engaged that I have had no opportunity to collect or even listen to any news. My letter book in the office when at home, is a pretty full diary, as it shows to whom I have written, and what I have written.

Thursday, May 13, 1858.

Nothing of importance transpired. Board met. Had no business of importance. Col. Morris talked of resigning his Presidency of the Company, but upon my remonstrating, he concluded to remain. It would not do for him to resign at this time.

Friday, May 14, 1858.

Last night about 10:00 o'clock, we had a most terrific storm. Early in the evening the entire horizon from the southwest, around the west, and extending into the northwest was lighted up with an almost continued blaze of lightening, indicating a terrible storm in the west. About 10 o'clock it came upon us. The wind blew furiously, and I never before heard hail fall so rapidly. Some of the hail stones were 1 1/2 inches in diameter. Garden vegetables were cut to pieces. The end wall of a brick house in the eastern part of the city was blown down, and other damage was done by the wind.

My business has occupied my time closely in the office the entire day, with nothing out of the usual routine.

About 4 o'clock this p. m. another storm burst upon the city. It became so dark that I had to quit writing in the office, and the wind blew terribly. The rain fell again in torrents. The lightning struck Judge Blackford's building now in course of erection, S. E. cor. Meridian and Washington Streets, and shattered some of the joists on the 3rd floor, and the window frame on the middle door on Meridian Street. It was attracted by a derrick fastened above the 3rd tier of joists for the purpose of raising material for the building.

The whole country is flooded. The rain is doing immense damage, and is also hindering farmers from corn planting.

Saturday, May 15, 1858.

The news of the morning is that a terrible railroad accident occurred at 1 o'clock this a. m. on the LaFayette road, by the breaking down of a bridge. The Locomotive, Baggage Car, and 2 passenger cars were precipitated into Potato Creek. The first rumors were that many lives had been lost. Dr. Parry and other physicians went up to the place of disaster. At noon, it was ascertained by those who returned, that the engineer, fireman, and conductor only were killed, and which is terrible enough in all conscience. The passenger cars ran on top the other cars which gave the few passengers in the train time to escape before the cars sank into the Creek. These seem to be dangerous times for travellers.

Wrote an article to-day for the Democrat, signed "Anti-Lecompton Democrat", advocating the support of the right kind of a Republican for Congress in this District by the Anti-Lecompton Democrats. The object is to pave the way, and get the Republicans to nominate Jno. D. Depeer, who can secure the Anti-Lecompton democratic votes. Shall be glad to have him get the nomination -- think he deserves it, and believe that he will make a respectable member of Congress.

